

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3039

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CEMETERY RESEARCH**

4               **AND THE PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL**

5               **MATERIALS FOR THE VETERANS LEGACY**

6               **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AD-**

7               **MINISTRATION.**

8       (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

1                             (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
2 Affairs may establish a grant program to conduct  
3 cemetery research and produce educational materials  
4 for the Veterans Legacy Program.

5                             (2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may  
6 award a grant under this section to any of the fol-  
7 lowing recipients:

8                                 (A) An institution of higher learning.  
9                                 (B) A local educational agency.  
10                                (C) A nonprofit entity that the Secretary  
11 determines has a demonstrated history of com-  
12 munity engagement.

13                               (D) Such other recipient as the Secretary  
14 determines to be appropriate.

15                             (3) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant  
16 under this section may use the grant amount for the  
17 following purposes:

18                               (A) To conduct research relating to na-  
19 tional, State, or Tribal veterans' cemeteries.  
20                               (B) To produce educational materials for  
21 the purpose of teaching about the histories of  
22 veterans interred in national, State, or Tribal  
23 veterans' cemeteries.

(C) To promote community engagement with the histories of veterans interred in national, State, or Tribal veterans' cemeteries.

7       (b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary establishes a  
8 grant program under this section, the Secretary shall pre-  
9 scribe regulations regarding—

10                   (1) the evaluation of applications for grants  
11                   under the program; and

12 (2) administration of the program.

13       (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years  
14 after the date on which the Secretary establishes a grant  
15 program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to  
16 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the  
17 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-  
18 resentatives a report on the determination of the Secretary  
19 as to whether the grant program is a financially effective  
20 means to promote the purposes under subsection (a)(3).

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1                             (2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
2                             “local educational agency” has the meaning given  
3                             that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
4                             Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5                             (3) VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM.—The term  
6                             “Veterans Legacy Program” means the program of  
7                             the National Cemetery Administration that is re-  
8                             sponsible for providing engagement and educational  
9                             tools and opportunities for the public regarding the  
10                            service and sacrifice of veterans interred in national,  
11                            State, and Tribal veterans’ cemeteries.

